

Judicial Review Council

At a Glance

SCOTT J. MURPHY, Executive Director

Established – January 1, 1978

Statutory authority – C.G.S. §51-51k, et seq.

Central office - 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Number of employees - 1 full-time, 1 part-time

Recurring operating expenses - \$112,919

Mission

The mission of this agency is to help enforce high standards of judicial conduct on and off the bench in order to preserve the integrity of the court system and promote public confidence in the courts. It is recognized that judges, family support magistrates and worker's compensation commissioners must be free to exercise their discretion without fear of disciplinary proceedings. However, they also must be held accountable for misconduct.

Statutory Responsibility

To investigate and act upon complaints of judicial misconduct made against state judges, family support magistrates and workers' compensation commissioners.

Public Service

Any person can present a complaint to the Judicial Review Council by obtaining a complaint form from any Superior Court clerk's office, by writing or calling the Judicial Review Council office, or by downloading the complaint form on the Council's website (www.ct.gov/jrc). The complaint, which must be in writing, sworn to and signed, must state facts that substantiate the alleged misconduct by a judge, family support magistrate, or workers' compensation commissioner within the jurisdiction of the Council. Every complaint received is screened by staff to determine that the above requirements are met; every complaint is then circulated to Council members for investigation and discussion at a subsequent monthly Council meeting.

Improvements/Achievements for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Pending complaints at the beginning of the fiscal year - 17
- Received 143 complaints;
- Considered 160 complaints (143 received combined with 17 pending at beginning of fiscal year);
- Dismissed 110 complaints after investigation;
- Dismissed 22 complaints barred by statute of limitation;
- Held 3 Probable Cause Hearings;
- Held 2 Public Hearings (a public hearing is held after the Council finds probable cause at the conclusion of the Probable Cause Hearing).